


## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF THE ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD'S APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF AWARD FROM THE VIRGINIA TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE TOBACCO PREVENTION PROGRAMMING IN PRESCHOOLS

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**ISSUE:** City Council consideration of the Alexandria Community Services Board (CSB) application for and acceptance of grant funds from the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation (VTSF) to continue existing tobacco prevention programming in Alexandria preschools through the CSB Preschool Prevention Team for the next three years.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the acceptance of funds from the VTSF, in the amount of \$75,000 per year for three years, to continue providing services to 300 children aged 3-5 years, including parenting workshops, monitoring the implementation of *Al's Pals* (a science-based prevention program delivered by trained preschool teachers), and providing consultation to parents and teachers regarding child behavior problems; and
- (2) Authorize continuation of a full-time bilingual Therapist II (1.0 FTE) in the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse for three years; and
- (3) Authorize the City Manager to execute all documents that may be required.

**BACKGROUND:** The VTSF was created in 1999 by the General Assembly to distribute monies from the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Fund for the purpose of restricting the use of tobacco products by minors. Grants are competitive and may be awarded to local organizations and agencies who provide tobacco use prevention programs for children. In FY 2005 and FY 2006, the CSB received a grant from VTSF in the amount of \$70,565 each year that was used to fund a bilingual Therapist II (1.0 FTE) position within the Preschool Prevention Team to provide evidence-based prevention programming in preschools, training and consultation to parents and teachers, and mental health promotion activities to children aged 3-5. Currently, the CSB's Preschool Prevention Team is implementing *Al's Pals* in more than 30 classrooms reaching more

than 300 children. *Al's Pals* is a nationally recognized, resiliency-based early childhood prevention program, designed to reduce future substance abuse by developing personal, social and emotional skills in children.

**DISCUSSION:** This grant, if awarded, will support one bilingual Therapist II (1.0 FTE) to continue implementation of *Al's Pals*, provide training and consultation to teachers and parents, and provide mental health support to children aged 3-5 years.

The services that would be provided through this grant are consistent with City Council's Strategic Plan and the City's Youth Policy which emphasizes prevention and activities that are supportive of families. In addition, the FY 2005 Community Health Assessment identified tobacco use as a major health risk in Alexandria.

It should be noted that the grant application is due on November 8th. Due to the time line for grant submission, the grant application was submitted contingent upon Council approval at the November 9th meeting.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The grant proposal is for \$75,000 per year or \$225,000 for three years, which is the maximum allowed. There is no required match for the first year of the grant. There is a 10% match required for year two of the grant and a 20% match required for year three. Required matches for this proposal would be in-kind which is identified in MH/MR/SA's operating budget using budgeted salary and fringe benefit costs for existing prevention and program management staff. It should be noted that there are no monies in the City budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended. At the end of the grant period, the position will be eliminated.

**ATTACHMENT:** None. The grant application may be viewed at the Department's office at 720 N. St. Asaph Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, after November 8, 2005.

**STAFF:**

Michael Gilmore, Ph.D., Director, MH/MR/SA

Deborah Warren, Director of Child, Family & Prevention Services MH/MR/SA

Kendel Taylor, Fiscal Officer, MH/MR/SA

Sandy Murphy, Budget Analyst, OMB